

PP&L Reports Electric Usage At New High

In 1955, you probably used 3 1/2 per cent more electricity than you did the year before. And over 38 per cent more in 1951. These figures represent the average increases in those periods for all Pennsylvania Power & Light Company residential and farm customers, according to the utility company's 1955 annual report being mailed today to approximately 100,000 company employees and shareholders.

In his letter to shareholders, Mr. Chas. E. Oakes, PP&L president, points out that the increasing use of electricity service by all classes of customers, the normal increase in numbers of customers and the serving of a larger area as a result of merger have helped send company revenues to a new high.

Mr. Oakes also points out that, among other things, increases in prices of materials and in wages were contributing factors in increasing the company's operating expenses, offsetting somewhat the gain in revenues. Taxes, too, were a major 1955 expense, amounting to \$22.4 million or 1.3 times the amount paid in dividends to the company's 94,198 shareholders.

Earnings applicable to the company's common stock outstanding at the year end were \$3.02 per share, as compared with \$2.88 per share for 1954. These 1955 per share earnings would have been \$3.10 if effect of the merger of Pennsylvania Water & Power Company, in June of 1955, had been given for the full year. This merger and that of The Scranton Electric Company increased PP&L's utility plant by \$111 million.

Another important phase of the report is discussion of the company's construction program for providing adequate supplies with which to supply increasing demands for electric power in homes, farms, business and industry throughout Central Eastern Pennsylvania.

Construction expenditures in 1955 totaled \$31.4 million. Based on present estimates of future electric usage, an estimated \$157 million will be needed to carry out the company's construction program in the next five years. PP&L's postwar construction program, 1946 thru 1960, is now expected to total approximately \$447 million.

Among the several interesting charts in the report is one which shows that some \$59.2 million of the company's total income is returned to service area. Of this amount, \$35.5 million was paid in wages to employees; \$14.5 million in local purchases of fuel materials and supplies; \$4.3 million in state and local taxes; and \$4.9 million in dividends to local shareholders, representing a substantial contribution to the economy of Central Eastern Pennsylvania.

Another important report item is the estimated new job opportunities resulting from intensive postwar industrial development activities throughout Central Eastern Pennsylvania. Over 91,500 job opportunities, according to the report, can be credited to incoming new industries since the close of World War II.

The fact that the new industry employment potential is more than the equivalent of the combined industrial employment of four major communities in the area shows how important such development efforts are to every community in offsetting the migration of

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MAYTOWN

The Girl Scout Troop #202 with their sponsor attended the morning worship service at the Marietta Reformed Church on Sunday.

Dennis Smith from Elizabethtown visited his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Smith over the weekend.

Mrs. Ellsworth Brandt who is confined to her home because of illness is somewhat improved.

W. E. Mohr is having a closing out sale of all electrical appliances in order to have his storeroom cleared by April 1st. At this time the Maytown Post Office will be moved to this room.

The Boy Scout Troop No. 53 held a banquet at the Kountry Kitchen on Monday evening. There were eighty persons in attendance. This included the members of the troop, their leaders and parents. After the

older industries, decline in anthracite mining and any industrial business mortality. According to the latest state figures available on industrial employment by communities, Bethlehem has 27,740 employed in industry; Allentown, 25,020; Scranton, 19,738; and Lancaster 17,234, or a total of 89,732.

Looking toward being of even greater service to Central Eastern Pennsylvania it is understood that the utility, as part of its recently announced Business Development department plans, is aiming at an even more concentrated drive in this direction. An expanded program will be directed both at generating increased community activities as well as intensifying the company's direct promotional efforts with industry over the entire nation.

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The Pennsylvania Story

By Mason Denison, Editor
Pennsylvania News Service

Harrisburg—One of the curious aspects of the three per cent sales tax now on Pennsylvania's statute books is the fact that local merchants who by law must in effect collect the

dinner a very interesting program was presented and merit badges were awarded. Mr. Mervin Brandt was the speaker.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Haines visited Rev. and Mrs. Vernon Baum at Easton over the weekend. Mrs. Baum is their daughter.

Mrs. Martin Musser is a surgical patient at St. Joseph's Hospital since Friday.

Marlin Sload, who was recently discharged from the Air Force has accepted a position in the office of the Lucas Mfg. Co. at Columbia.

Charles Johns was confined to his home during the past week because of illness.

Mr. Harry Bowers, the oldest native-born resident of Maytown celebrated his 90th birthday anniversary last Saturday. A family dinner was given in his honor on Sunday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Norman Blottenberger.

PROSECUTED BY POLICE

Among those prosecuted by the state police of the Lancaster Barracks were Franklin C. Zimmerman, North Market St., reckless driving; Cyrus K. Peifer, Mount Joy St., speeding.

tax - are require to pay a \$2.00 license fee.

From cracker barrel to striped pants department store, proprietors of these establishments the sizzling in wrathful indignation over what many feel is adding insult to injury.

For merchants the sales tax is a headache from beginning to end. The maze of record-keeping and fiddling is an unwanted and distasteful chore to begin with.

Now that the merchants have become tax merchants, any feeling of benign hospitality has all but fled. But to be socked \$2 for a license fee to do the odious chore they don't want in the first place has made the hair stand on end of many of the behind-the-counter gentry.

The Republican-bred sales tax was a grand foul-up from the beginning. So many amendments have to be prepared for the impost that it will have all the appearances of a patch quilt before all is over and done with.

The \$2 license fee item is an example of the hurry-scurry pattern of the tax bill.

We're not quite certain just yet who put the joker in the bill but this is what happened:

It will be recalled that the sales tax we now have was half of a "compromise" tax bill worked up jointly between Republican and Democratic members of the House. The other half embraced an income tax.

With considerable commotion this bill passed the lower chamber and was trundled over to the Senate where Republicans in control brought out only the sales tax portion, amended it and sent it back to the House where in confusion it was concurred in.

The income tax died on the vine.

When the compromise package left the House, it did not contain the \$2 license stipulation. This was written into the bill when it was revised in the Senate. By whom we do not know for certain yet.

Interesting thing about this license fee is that few lawmakers seemed to realize it had been inserted in the bill.

For example we talked to Democrats and Republican members of the House the other

day asking them why they let the thing go through, and almost without exception they replied:

"We didn't realize it was there."

The question arises as to why they didn't read the bill to find out such things.

In the first place they hardly had time. The version that finally passed the Legislature came back from the printer early in the evening and only a short time later that same evening it had been passed.

Most members assumed that virtually no basic changes had been made inasmuch as it was agreeable to the joint House-Senate conference committee.

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